

The Scribblerist

Issue #2

* * * Larger Than Life * * *

June 24, 1988

The Mark Burch Department

After one day of sweltering temperatures [101 degrees F] and oppressive humidity and one day of lower temperatures [97 degrees] but severe thunderstorms we are blessed with cooler weather [in the low 80's]. One might even say there is a nip in the air. Damn mosquito!

GAME OPENINGS : One position left in the second regular Diplomacy game.
One Gunboat Diplomacy game opening [none signed up, seven needed].
One Snow Fighting opening [none signed up, need seven to nine].

Circulation : 38

URBANE SCRAWL Part I

Well, here is the second issue of that new zine, THE SCRIBBLERIST. I was planning on writing this opening editorial about the rapid expansion of the Charlottesville/Albemarle area and what it is doing to formally wooded and beautiful areas but have decided to talk about something a little more relevant to the zine. Dismal response.

As of this writing [June 22] I've gotten a grand total of 22 definite positive response: 16 subbers, 4 trades, and 2 complimentary. On the bright side I've just about filled up both the Dippy openings and have a long line of stanbys [thanx all for volunteering]. Now don't get me wrong, I'm thrilled that those who did sign up have and have thought TS worthy of them but I am somewhat disheartened by the fact that I've had so little pubber response. In a time when I hear calls from established publishers that new blood is needed I would expect to have them at least muttering a few words of encouragement. Maybe I just haven't given it enough time; hopefully, that's the case. It probably is partly my fault by not making it clear in the zine proper that I was looking for trades but I did, in fact, write many personal notes expressing that to many different editors. Sigh.

Now there is no need to worry you all. I'm not going to give up in frustration nor am I going to turn on you like a cornered wolf. I'm enjoying this so far and I've enjoyed hearing from all of you [selected excerpts below], keep those letters coming! But in the meantime let me mope, let me dream of the days of huge mailing lists [though I don't think I could handle another 235 outlay], but most of all let me thank all of you guys for signing up and showing a little faith in this "rookie" publisher. I'm planning on having a ball and I hope you do to. Now let's get off this kick and hit the mailbag....

CATCALLS FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

Here it is, the letter column. Filled with your opinions and my inane ramblings we could turn this into quite a little forum for debate. This issue we've got a little bit of Poll talk, a request to initiate a discussion on SDI, some suggestions for the zine, and another question forwarded so far to three of my loyal minions which I may or may not answer. But before we get to the letters let me say a little something about a letter answering policy. I'll usually get back to you within a couple days of receipt of any letter unless I get it close to a deadline. Also, I may hold back on answering a letter so that I can put it in this letter column. However, if you've written and I haven't responded [either here or by personal letter] then you can get on my case. Now that that is out of the way onto the letters ...

Larry Perry:

Thank for the copy of THE SCRIBBLERIST #1. Very impressive.

On, that's so sweet [blush, blush]. I'm overwhelmed. In fact, that was such a nice thing to say I'm giving you a complimentary sub to TS. Actually, before anyone out there gets any ideas the comp sub is for the archives that Larry runs; in my opinion far from necessary but still worthwhile. Also, I decided to get the self gratuitous ego stroking out of the way ... Thank for the kind words Larry.)

Tony Williams:

... free solicited critique of TS;

- 1) Thou shalt publish maps that are easy to read. The Bad Boys do pub easy-to-read maps.
- 2) Thou shalt not use naughty words in thy zine.
- 3) Thou shalt not do perverted non DIP games in thy zine.

((Some good suggestions; I'll tackle them one by one: 1) I've thought about pubbing with maps for a while but have yet to get a hold of a decent copy of one. Depending on whether I can secure one or not and also depending on space restrictions I WILL publish accompanying maps. 2) Who the HELL do you think you are, huh? Oh, you paid for this rag didn't you? Point well taken, and I'll try to keep the vulgarity down to a minimum. 3) Sorry, but as everyone will know by the end of this issue I'll have openings in a game of Snowball Fighting. I view an "only Dippy related" rule the same way I view a Warehouse zine: you can do it that way but there are so many other enjoyable things you can do outside that realm why restrict yourself. Lest anyone think all Jimmy is good for is nit-picking I should point out that I got a followup letter from him expressing how much he liked TS and how he didn't want to give the impression that he didn't like it. Thanx, but such an assurance was unnecessary; I knew deep down inside you couldn't live without me. Great to have you aboard and keep those interesting [cough, cough] letters coming.))

Bruce Linsey:

Have you thought about what you'll do when your games get out of sync? Delays do happen, and you don't want to hold back all your games for the price of one...

My suggestion along with some thinking on my part has led me to the conclusion that the 4-5 or 5-6 week deadline system that

I had envisioned is more trouble than it's worth. As such I'm switching to straight 5 week deadlines with INTERLOPER coming out when needed. However, to keep bookkeeping a lot easier for me all players will get INTERLOPER whether their game is a subject of it or not for the duration of the game. This is kind of a bonus for players as it will allow for retreats and the elimination of confusing conditional orders. So there. >>

Bill Salvatore:

I strongly suggest that you number the pages, or else staple it together for reading before stapling it together for mailing.

<<Duly noted. I'll do one of the two with this and all following issues. Thanx for the suggestions everyone and for all your kind words. >>

<<Next up we turn from zine talk to that seemingly ever present Runestone POLL talk....>>

Bruce Linsey to Paul Kenny in PRAXIS #21:

Obviously the project cannot be regarded as of earthshaking importance, so to some people my enthusiasm is too much. To me, though, it's just pure fun, and one is entitled to put as much effort as he likes into having fun ... For me, running and publishing the Poll is what I enjoy doing.

Bruce Linsey:

You give the Poll too little credit when you call it an inconsequential facet of the hobby - it's more than that by sheer weight of the publicity and level of response it draws. But on the other hand, you give me too much credit when you say it isn't "an attempt on Bruce's part to boost his hobby standing or self-esteem." I admit it (horrors!) - there is a lot of egoboots in running the thing, just as there is in running a zine. But you're also right that I love number crunching and analysis.

<<Well, I guess I shouldn't have attempted to put words in your mouth but my contention was, and still is [pardon my intrusion into your motives] that you do it for fun. I mean, look at that PRAXIS quote. Admittedly, there is a lot of "egoboots" involved in publishing anything [I'm thrilled that people actually want to hear what I have to say, I feel like BMH (Big Man In Hobby)], but I'll tell you one thing; I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't enjoy pubbing. And yes, the Poll is important but I don't think it is anything to get all riled up about. >>

Bill Salvatore:

In my view, it <<(the "Poll Feud" to use Bill's words)>> is all literally "much ado about nothing" - after all, Dip is only a hobby, so surely nobody takes any of this very seriously - just some people deciding that the hobby had gone too long without a good feud, and needing a peg to hang it on.

<<For the most part I agree with you. My one contention comes from the fact that, unfortunately, some people take the hobby and their involvement all too seriously and are all too quick to lash out defensively at the slightest insult [whether deliberate or not]. I'm with you - I think the Poll Feud is in large part a result of long held prejudices finally finding an outlet. >>

<<And with that we turn to a new topic of debate proposed by one of my new subbers...>>

Eric Walton:

...I do have a strong opinion on the Space Race, Star Wars, and exploration of space. I am very involved in these areas and maybe you could start a discussion on one of these subjects.

All right Eric, here it is. Now before I go off on my diatribe let me encourage everyone to write in with their opinions on this or any other subject. Now that that is out of the way I'll let you know a little of what I think. Since the very beginning when the Reagan administration first started talking about the "Shield" that SDI would provide I have always had that image of the old bubbled city so prevalent in science fiction stories. Outside the bubble is a vast wasteland while those under the bubble enjoy an idealistic life. However, that bubble is a very fragile thing and the slightest puncture would threaten the entire ecosystem under the bubble. The same holds true for the umbrella - as SDI is supposed to provide. Not only is such a system very expensive and most likely prone to failure if one can't do it, it can technological abilities out

rather our management of such technology but if that one "hole" opened up it could spell disaster. What's more, the SDI bubble would not protect the US from the environmental threats that would occur after a nuclear attack [even if it did eliminate all incoming warheads]. I know, there are a lot of holes in my argument, but they're there for a purpose: point them out, exploit them, right it all down, and send it to me. As for the space race I feel that we lost a lot o the Soviets when we piled all our eggs into one basket with the Space Shuttle. With the Challenger explosion our entire space program was shot to hell because we had no back up system. In the meantime the Soviets have garnered an incredible amount of actual space time, albeit at a somewhat less advanced level. Not only does the program have to diversify but I think it is time to depoliticize space. At least in this one area we must bury our seemingly inbred fear of the Soviets and harness what they've learned and share some of what we've learned. Anybody? Anybody? >>

<<And so we reach that last, tortuous question that has been on so many minds. >>

Larry Perry:

I'll probably never learn to spell or pronounce your name.

<<It's not really all that important, people haven't been able to spell or pronounce it for nineteen years. But if you want to learn ...>>

Bruce Linsey:

Finally, one more question, which SOMEBODY has to be brash enough to ask, or you'll inadvertently cause a major hobby problem for years to come. Er, not to be rude, but would you please tell us all how your name is pronounced?

<<Gee, my taste for scandal seems to be running at an all time high right now. Maybe I'll keep you wondering for awhile. Anybody want to feud with me over this? >>

Cal White:

How the hell do you pronounce your last name? (Lil-et?)

<<All right, by popular demand I will, after all, educate my subscribers as to the pronunciation of my last name. You were pretty close Cal but lost a syllable. Lil - la - let. That's as good as I can make out at least. Disagree with me? Send in your suggestions, they're as good as mine. >>

Well that ends CATCALLS for this issue. As anybody who has had there letter published this issue will tell you I've taken the liberty to excerpt their letters. The reason is to save space and save other subbers the bother reading something that may not be of any interest or relevance to anyone other than myself. However, if you write a letter with a particular theme running throughout I'll try to keep it in one piece. Also, as you may have noticed my comments are in <<>>. I try not to interrupt in the middle of letters and will only do so when absolutely necessary. I love your letters, keep 'em coming.

TOP FIVE BOOKS I OWN AND WOULD LIKE TO READ

- 1) THE MAGUS - John Fowles
<<The master of modern Victorian fiction strikes with this tale of the fantastic and erotic. >>
- 2) FIRE IN THE LAKE - Francis Fitzgerald
<<A view of the Vietnam Conflict in the Vietnamese historical context. Much more sensitive than the more sensationalist histories that have seen print lately. >>
- 3) DHALGREN -Samuel R. Delany
<<A massive tome about life after chaos overcomes order and society crumbles. >>
- 4) THE TALE OF GENJI - Murasaki Shikibu
<<Probably the very first novel ever written. It's authored by a lady of the 11th c. Japanese Royal Court. >>
- 5) DICTIONARY OF THE HISTORY OF IDEAS - 4 Volume Set
<<With the demise of physics and astronomy as no more than side interests for me this has taken precedence as the main reference work in my limited library. It's not something you sit down and read through but if I knew all contained within I'd be the world's premiere philosopher. >>

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

No longer is this my opinion column, rather it has become the vehicle for hobby news. Nothing much seems to be going on in the hobby other than preparation for the spate of upcoming cons [which I won't be able to attend because I took a weekend job, damn!] and the major topic of conversation seems to be the Poll. This doesn't make for a dull hobby, far from it as pubbers seem to be doing more of what they want rather than feeling obligated to steer discussion down any one path. I'm thoroughly enjoying all the zines I get and would be happy to review a couple if there is any interest in that.

A couple quick notes as regards openings. Steve Heinowski's zine, TER-RAN, is in need of Diplomacy standbys and Bourse players [an economic game based on a running Dippy game; \$10 gamefee, half of which goes into a pot for the eventual winner]. Also, Eric Walton asks me to mention that if anyone is interested in playing England, Italy, or Austria in a game to drop him a line.

I just got the latest issue of the ZINE REGISTER. Another fine job by Ken and this issue is so current as to include yours truly. A very useful guide for those looking to expand their hobby horizons and a fun read to boot [some of the descriptions are outrageous]. My one grief is the elimination of the international listings as I am just about to send off some \$\$\$ for some Brit zines and I would have liked to have seen what subs cost these days. No matter though, ISE here I come!

Addresses : Steve Heinowski, 51500 Portman Rd, RD #2, Amherst, OH 44001
Eric Walton, 8116 Millview Dr, Brentwood, TN, 37027
Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave, #T-2, Silver Spring, MD, 20910

One question that I don't think has been properly addressed is how to bring novices into the postal Diplomacy hobby. One traditional way has been to place ads in what is equivalent to the "personals" section of THE GENERAL, Avalon Hill's professional gaming magazine. The problem with this is that those ads are very small and not very visible and I'd imagine only read by "hardcore" gamers. What the hobby needs is increased visibility only gotten through larger ads. Too expensive some would say. Maybe, but why not allocate some PDORA funds or have an "in-house" fundraiser. All right, but which zines would we advertise? None. Zines are much too specific, aimed at too narrow an audience to draw in novices on their own, what we need is a packet to send out to novices. Like SUPERNOVA and MASTERS OF DECEIT; but which one would we send out? Both, so as not to alienate anybody and to give the novice the largest possible view of the hobby. Throw in copies of PONTEVEDRIA, KNOWN GAME OPENING, and the ZINE REGISTER and one has a great novice packet. This would best be run by the Zine Bank Custodian as he/she could also send out some sample zines, but if Ken doesn't feel up to such an activity I'm sure someone would be willing to help. Take out a 1/4 page advertising that for \$5 one can get all of the above plus some sample zines and we may get a decent influx of novices into which to sink our talons, ahhh, introduce to the hobby.

!!!!!! GAMESTART !!!!!

Yes, we have our first gamestart ever in TS. I don't yet have a Boardman Number for the game so in your initial correspondence just refer to it by name, "Bambuti". Simply put, Bambuti is the general name given to all Pygmies of the Ituri Forest, part of the dense tropical forest system that stretches across the middle of Africa. Five people got their first choice, one person his second, and another expressed no preference so got stuck with Austria. Remember, press is encouraged, so give it your best shot. Good Luck.

RUSSIA: Jim Nickel, 429 E Columbia St, Falls Church, VA 22046

FRANCE : Scott Beckett, 5348 Tall Tree Way, West Chester, OH 45069

GERMANY : Jim Diehl, 10530 West Riverview Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

ENGLAND : Chris Hurley, 3508 Orbitan Rd, Parkville, MD 21234

ITALY : Chuck Hanna, 379 Wilett Ct, Severna Park, MD 21146

AUSTRIA : Andrew York, 14001 Oak Meadows #917, Universal City, TX 78148

TURKEY : Charles Greger, 2621 McCulloch Apt 1A, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Houserules are buried somewhere in this issue so you might want to look them over. Deadline for "Spring 1901" orders is Wednesday, July 27, so you had better open negotiations quick.

ALWAYS THE BRIDESMAID

And with a game start we'll inevitably need standbys. You get one free issue for signing up and another two if you take over a position. Thanx to all those signed up. Let me know whether you want on or off the list: Diehl, Gaughan, Greger, Hawes, Hurley, Salvatore, York.

PLEASE SIR, MAY I HAVE SOME MORE

The first game of regular Diplomacy filled up nicely but I still have two slots left in the second game of regular Dip. Again, the gamefee is \$5 and gets you INTERLOPER, the [sub]zine of spring and fall adjustments and winter builds. So far signed up for game two: Jim Diehl, Barry Hawes, Eric Walton [need gamefee], Thomas Thorsen, and Pete Gaughan. Two more needed to round out the bunch. Those currently on this list will receive TS free until we fill out the game as I'd imagine the game is why most of you came aboard. But please, let's get this game filled before I go bankrupt!

Also, because sufficient interest was expressed I've got two new openings to announce. One opening will be a Gunboat Diplomacy game while another will be a game of Snowball Fighting. Gunboat will be free if you already play or have signed up and paid for a regular Diplomacy game, otherwise there will be a \$4 game fee [like regular Diplomacy you will receive INTERLOPER for the duration of the game]. Snow Fighting will be free and the rules can be had for a SASE. Requesting the rules in no way obligates you to playing.

URBANE SCRAWL Part II

Well, here we are, back to some more aimless ramblings by your somewhat disoriented editor. Will I ever get back to the topic which gave me the inspiration for this column's name? Who knows, maybe. But for now I'm going to get a little personal and just let you know how things stand around the ole homestead.

It's been rather strange lately in that I've found a distinct need to read humorous books and listen to music leaning to the lighter side of the spectrum [with either a humorous bent to it or just pure, unadulterated, primal rock with no heavy message]. It is not that I feel depressed or any such nonsense; I'm having a better time than I've ever had. I'm madly in love, I look forward to going back to school and taking the classes I signed up for, and I enjoy putting. I just feel a little fed up with the world right about now and all the gloom that is preached on the news programs and through the various news weeklies. So rather than dwell on what is depressing why not retreat into some reggae while flipping through old Doonesbury treasures? But it is probably just a phase brought on by separation anxiety from my girlfriend who is a five hour drive away. Sigh.

Will I get over this malaise and go back to listening to my old Pink Floyd tapes [speaking of which, look below]? You bet I will. And after all, there isn't that much to get over.

Will I get slammed by the Bad Boys for publishing this in my zine? Ask me if I care. Fuck the Bad Boys.

PLAYLIST THE FIRST

Dream, DISRAELI GEARS [Never ones to feel obligated to pander to public opinion this album is one of the best I own; characteristically eclectic it's quite a collection encompassing many different styles]; Jethro Tull, AQUALUNG [Probably their best known album, it has quite a message regarding religion and is quite powerful on its musical merits alone]; The Guess Who, AMERICAN WOMAN [A sixties Canuck group that isn't too well known these days. The title track is the only one that gets any sort of air time whatsoever but the rest of the album deserves a listen].

YOU HAVE THIRTY MINUTES, BEGIN

Well, the results are in from the first issues quiz. In the lead is a newcomer to the postal dippy realm, someone I recruited from my days in professional PBM, John Justin with 3 correct answers. Eric Walton, Cal White, and Charles Greger all got 2 correct answers while Bill Salvatore and Jimmy Williams both had one correct answer. Everybody who responded got the forth question right while only two people, John Justin and Eric

walton got the answer to the first question. Answers?

1) The Dutchman known as the "Father of International Law" is none other than Hugo Grotius. Now aren't you guys just kicking yourselves!

2) The lead singer and flutist of Jethro Tull is Ian Anderson [for President].

3) Booooooooooooo! No one, not a soul, got this one. Flint the Caveman is featured in Piers Anthony's book, CLUSTER, the first in the "Cluster" series. Recommended reading.

4) And now the easy one of the batch. "Nuts!" was uttered by Brig. General Anthony McAuliffe as his response to a German request that the Americans whom McAuliffe commanded surrender at the battle of Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge.

Thanks to all those who responded. This quiz will run for 5 issues with an overall winner (though all will be allowed to keep their free issues). So come on everybody, you can't lose. This issues quiz is somewhere around here.

PLAYLIST THE SECOND

Funny that the very next playlist should be this one out..... King Crimson, THE COMPACT KING CLIMSON [The only KC sold in this area and a very good one at that. Has some of their best work on this compilation that is amazing diverse but plays well as a whole]; The Jimi Hendrix Experience, ARE YOU EXPERIENCED [Just amazing music from the king of guitar innovation]; Pink Floyd, WISH YOU WERE HERE [A great listen even if it can be a little downbeat, not the kind of stuff to listen to if you're suicidal].

HOUSERULES FOR DIPLOMACY

- I'll be using the February, '82 [2nd edition] rules of the Diplomacy boxed game.

- GM decision is final and I may override these houserules if I see a flaw though I will never go against the rule book knowingly.

- Any error on my part should be brought to my attention ASAP and before the deadline. If a delay is caused by a correction so be it. I will not go back and correct an error from 3 adjudications ago.

- Seasons will always be separated with Spring and Fall retreats and Winter builds/removals published in INTERLOPER, my [sub]zine specifically created for that purpose. INTERLOPER is published two weeks after the publication of the latest Spring and/or Fall moves so adjustments should be sent in immediately following your receipt of the latest TS.

- Orders should be legible and should be signed, dated and it should be clear as to who the orders are from and for what game they are meant [e.g. have your name, the country you're playing, the season, and the game name/number].

- Ambiguous orders will be dealt with as the situations arise though I should point out I would prefer you to use the following abbreviations [otherwise first three letters are fine]:

Liv	- Liverpool	Nwq	- Norwegian Sea
Naf	- North Africa	Nat	- North Atlantic
Nwy	- Norway	Nth	- North Sea
StP	- St Petersburg	Bot	- Gulf of Bothnia
Lvn	- Livonia	Tyo	- Tyrolia
Wms	- Western Med	Mao	- Mid Atlantic
Lyo	- Gulf of Lyon	Ems	- Eastern Med
		Tyn	- Tyrrhenian Sea

You must include coast designations for fleets or order will fail!

- Press is highly encouraged! NO black press but grey and white press is accepted happily. Any dateline is acceptable unless use of it might cause others in the game to believe the writer of the text is someone who it is not. The following datelines are reserved for my own use: Hooville, GM, and Malta. All others acceptable.

- I will not accept telephoned orders unless you've got a real good reason for doing so. I will, however, be more than happy to just chat with any of you. Please do not call after 11 pm. Also, my phone number changes with the school year although you'll always be able to get my new phone number at (604) 290-8271.

- Deception of the GM will result in removal from whatever games you play, forfeiture of all sub fees, and utter contempt.

However, seeing as how this is all a game I see no reason why I would have to call this into action.

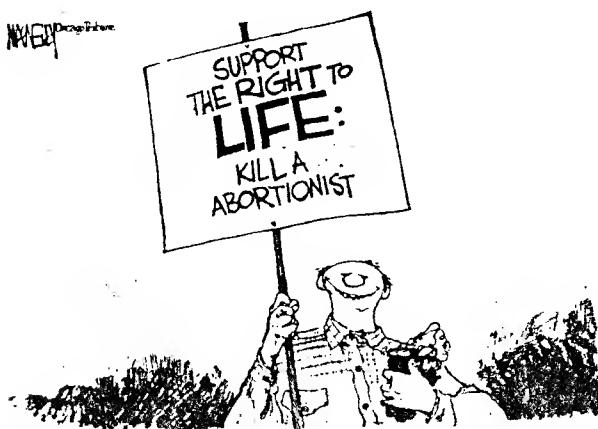
- A spring NMR will mean a delay, or game start for one issue, forfeiture of game by NMRing player(s), removal from the game by same, and the calling of a standby to take over. I'd highly recommend sending off some basic orders right away.

- Two consecutive NMRs will result in removal from the game and the calling of a standby to take over.

- A total of four NMR's in any one game will also result in removal and calling up a standby.

- Any player may submit endgame proposals at the rate of one every Spring or Fall season [meaning two a year max]. Draws do not have to include all survivors. Individual votes will not be revealed, only totals. A No Vote Received will be equivalent to a "yes" vote [if you don't care enough to vote, tough]. An NMR will be the same as a "no" vote. Votes must be unanimous; a single "no" or NMR will veto proposal.

That's it for my houserules. Not as comprehensive or as strict as Brad Linsey's [infamous VOICE OF DOOM HR's but they are a little more fleshed out than some I've seen. These all reflect on either the spirit of the rules or just plain common sense. If you have questions or problems let me know.)



CATCALLS FROM THE CHEAP SEATS
Part II

«I just got this letter from a friend making a somewhat tentative crossover from the professional PBM scene. It's political in nature and refers back to last issue's somewhat blah! editorial.»

John Justin:

Noriega should be shot by a US trooper seizing the government building in Panama City. We have most of a division in the country already and taking the place would be easy. Reagan can't get hurt by losing an election as he ain't running (unless Bush really is his clone with plastic surgery done) so what the hell. Seriously, the drug lords have such a grip on those countries that nothing short of outside force can stop them. If we can take over Grenada for a relatively irrelevant airfield we can surely clean out Columbia, Panama etc for the lives of our young!»

«Well, interesting. Aside from the fact that an invasion of Panama would violate international law there are many other reasons against such an action. First off, you're right that an invasion can not really hurt Reagan at the moment. However, it will hurt him in the history books and, more important, will severely hamper the US on the international front. When the President does something it is not only a reflection of his own personality and beliefs but also that of the entire nation. It may not hurt Reagan particularly but it will hurt the US [even more so if Bush ascends to the throne, a man who has long prided himself on being Ronnie's clone]. Also, just because we invaded Grenada and largely got away with it does not make what we did right or proper. It was a terrible mistake, which almost became terribly embarrassing, all thinly veiled behind a facade of protecting US citizens. You're right on one other point when you point out the firm grip the drug lords have on the various Central/South American nations. The thing is that these drug lords are so deeply entrenched that it would take much more than a mere invasion and change of government to wipe them out. A massive influx of US capital and aid would be required along with US policing and the implementation of programs that make it more profitable for the peasants to grow something other than coca for the drug lords. Problems like these can't be solved by the long arm of the Pentagon.»

PLAYLIST THE THIRD, AND FINAL

Happy music this time around. The Beatles, 1962-1966 [The quintessential pop group of the early sixties. Not particularly full of meaning but fun to just bop around the house to]; Bob Marley and the Wailers, LEGEND [Digitally remastered tracks of the king of reggae's greatest hits. Just fabulous music whether you listen to the lyrics or just the music. In more serious moods it carries quite a message but also a great party tape]; Fishbone, FISHBONE [This album was just laying in the suite last year so I picked it up, listened to it, and loved it. The first group I've heard with a overt sense of humor; witness the last track, 'Lyn' Ass Bitch' and the first track "U.G.L.Y" (you ain't got no alibi, we all know the song)].

.... ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES, CLASS!

Well, here it is, the second quiz of this zine. Response last issue was all right but I'd like to see more of you participating this time around [though I think these questions are a bit tougher than the last ones]. Good luck and don't worry if you don't know them; feel free to send me some gag answers.

- 1) What is a griot? [Hint: It is a person, not a thing! And when I last checked it wasn't in Webster's]
- 2) Name the group and its first album whose members were: Steve Winwood, Rick Grech, Eric Clapton, and Ginger Baker.
- 3) What is the covering on the end of your shoelace called?
- 4) From what book is the following quote: "And good-bye to you too, old 'Rights of Man'."?

«Time for a story break, kiddies. The following is a little story Larry Perry sent to me. It's about an experience he had visiting the University and is probably one of the best examples of what the U. is supposed to be about.»

JOURNEY INTO HISTORY PAST
by
Larry Perry

Richard Nixon was President. Watergate, at least for a few more weeks, was history future. I had journeyed to Washington with a special friend. He was looking for a job in the federal bureaucracy. I was just looking. One weekend...we drove down into the Tidewater area. The highway signs read like an American history book. And then, on the way back, we stopped early on a Sunday morning in Charlottesville to visit the University campus. I wandered about the campus seeing the sights a tourist always sees and then some. I was intrigued by one particular brick wall. As I followed it along I noticed a small gate with a simple latch lock. I opened it, curious to see the other side. There a simple garden, filled with God's simple gifts, lay before me. A patio, set for a Sunday brunch, was across the flower-bordered lawn. And sitting at the table was a couple. He was engrossed in the Sunday paper. She was surprised to see me, no doubt, as I was to see her. I apologized for my intrusion and introduced myself as a simple visitor from California...They were gracious beyond measure and for the first time I learned the real meaning of southern hospitality. We chatted and nibbled and I chattered on how beautiful the campus was and how much I enjoyed visiting such a historic spot, etc. etc. They smiled...and listened indulgently. Soon, and effortlessly, we were old friends. They offered to give me a guided tour of the campus and I eagerly accepted. And away we went. The Library, as always, was striking. More so when I learned the story behind the building. Finally she suggested I take a stroll down a simple path by myself. So off I went, admiring the scenery, the trees, the simple brick walkway, alone with my sense of history. And then, as I rounded a corner I saw it. It was something I had seen before, of course. It was pictured in every guide book, history book, and encyclopedia I had ever looked at. And there it was. And there I was. Together we looked at history past. It was simple in design. The words were familiar. The sun, the wind, the scent of the trees and flowers blended to make past, present, and future one. I stood and looked. And suddenly it all had meaning for me. Nothing in my schooling had prepared me for the impact of that moment in that spot. Slowly I turned away and walked back up the path. I knew, even if only vicariously, that I had shared a moment alone with the memory of a great man. Thomas Jefferson did far more than write and teach and be president. I must have had a strange look as I met up with my hosts, patiently waiting for me. We walked back to their house and I went back through the gate and back into the real world. Only later did I learn that my guides had been the president of the University and his wife. But the memory of that morning spent beside the grave of Thomas Jefferson will stay with me until I rest in my own.

«Great story. One problem, here at the University we refer to the "campus" as the grounds, and toss in as much southern pomposity as possible. The president at the time was Edgar Shannon, probably one of the nicest men you could ever meet. He reigned supreme over the University during a time of great change [protests, admission of women for the first time, etc] but through it all he maintained the University on a fairly even keel. Jefferson would have been proud.»

Intentional White Space

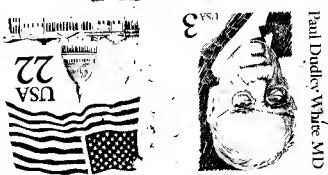
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ENJOY 0 0 0
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The Scribblerist



Actual Handwritten Correspondence To You [maybe]

Lucy,

Here's TS #2. Go ahead, don't be shy, open it. Part of your letter is printed plus your great story with a very few of my own comments of my own tacked on. I still want to know why I'm like Pete Goughan [by the way, he's subbing!]. Here it is, enjoy it and take care.

Best,

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BACKWASH

Well, it comes that time again when I must say bye-bye to all those out there who are reading [and hopefully enjoying] my little work of hobby [cough, cough] literature. As you may have noticed this is a little bit bigger than last issue. Why? Because you helped me to write this so we had more to print and read. Keep on writing, and sign up for some of those game openings.

Now you may have been asking yourself why circulation is so high while I bemoan about a dismal response (less than 10%). Well, I've done it again and sent out some additional samples to those publishers who I'd like to trade with but am unsure as to whether or not I sent them issue #1. Next time around we should see a circulation reflective of the actual subscription list size. I'd also like to add that on publication date I received a sub and a gamestart request from Mike Henry so that means that we only have one more position open in the second dippy game so if you want to play let me know ASAP. I'd like to thank Cath, Sqg [who sent mike my way] and all the pubbers who have given me a plug so far. I'll try to reciprocate.

As for my disappointment with all the publishers who received a copy of TS #1 it is slowly being dissipated by the fact that I've gotten a few more positive replies, although they all said that they planned on subbing so I have yet to know for sure but it is looking all right.

As publication date is planned for July 29. All you players remember to get your orders in by the 27th though so that you don't have to worry about the NMR penit!

One more hobby note: I just got a letter from Bruce Linsay saying that the Runestone Foil deadline has been extended to sometime in mid to late July. So apparently I am eligible to be voted for [and make sure you vote how you feel, not what you think the end is]. If so, of all the ballots just let me know and I'll send one off.

Thank again for all your support and confidence in me. I can't forget to write. So, you see, get published!